As per Foreign Trade Policy, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods.

The Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratory, conducted a study and submitted a report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2002 on "Assessment of Leaching of Phthalates, Metals and Colorants from Plastic Toys". The objective of the study was to survey the types and the quality of plastic toys to which children could be exposed, exent of leaching of phthalate plasticizers, metals and colorants from various type, factors influencing the leaching of phthalate, metals and colorants from plastic toys and effect of toys on health of children through clinical examination using a questionnaire.

The study suggested that natural, non-toxic pigments and dyes be promoted and toys be manufactured using standard procedures to minimize the possible leaching of its ingredients during use.

As regards the safety requirement for toys, the Bureau of Indian Stadards has published the following three standards for safety requirement for toys:—

1. IS 9873 (Part I): 2001/ISO 8124-1:2000 Safety requirements for toys: Part I: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.
2. IS 9873 (Part 2): 1999/ISO 8124-3:1997 Safety requirements for toys: Part 2: Flammability requirements
3. IS 9873 (Part 3): 1999/ISO 8124-3:1997 Safety requirements for toys: Part 3: Migration of certain elements, prescribed maximum acceptable element migration, for Antimony (sb), Arsenic (As), Barium (Ba), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg) and Selenium (Se) from toy materials.

The aforementioned BIS standards are neither mandatory on domestic manufacturers nor on imports. Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises has set up testing facilities for evaluation of toys at Testing Centres at Mumbai and New Delhi.

Shifting of Spices Park from Andhra Pradesh

301. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up Spices Park in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons behind Government's plan to shift it from Andhra Pradesh to some other State when the State is ready to provide land and other infrastructure which the Spices Board required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided, in principle, to set up a spice part at Guntur primarily for Chillies and Turmeric. There is no plan to shift Spices Park from Andhra Pradesh.

Ban on import of prawns by Australia

302. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia has announced banning import of prawns from India which hit largely Andhra Pradesh since it is the largest producer of prawns in the country;